

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-05

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R 141645Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8856

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2230

FOR MINISTER JURICH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HA

SUBJ: US/HAITI BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

REF: SEOUL 7429

1. ON NOV. 13 I HANDED FOURCAND A LETTER SPECIFYING PROPOSED CHANGES IN DRAFT BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED IN REFTEL, AND POINTED OUT THAT THESE CHANGES REFLECTED SPECIAL EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE HAITI'S PROBLEMS IN SPIRIT OF TRYING TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL TO GOH AS POSSIBLE.

2. I SAID THAT NO CHANGE COULD BE MADE IN STATUS OF CATEGORY 219 IN VIEW OF ITS SENSITIVITY, ILLUSTRATING THE POINT WITH NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS BY US WORKERS IN VARIOUS CITIES AGAINST IMPORTED TEXTILE PRODUCTS. I EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT GOH COULD RAISE 219 QUESTION AT ANY TIME AND THAT AT END OF FIRST AGREEMENT YEAR WE WOULD CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS THE GOH MIGHT HAVE RE THIS CATEGORY IN LIGHT OF MARKET CONDITIONS AT TIME. I STRONGLY URGED THAT THE AGREEMENT BE SIGNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. FOURCAND, WHO HAD APPARENTLY EXPECTED NEGATIVE RESPONSE,
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WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE, AND ASKED US TO THANK MINISTER JURICH

FOR HIS SPECIAL EFFORTS TO MEET HAITI'S PROBLEMS. HE SAID
HE WOULD INFORM PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY.

4. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS FOURCAND SHOWED ME A LETTER FROM
WASHINGTON LAW FIRM DANIELS AND HOULIHAN, SUGGESTING HAITI
DELAY SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT. LAWYERS ARGUED DRAFT WAS
INCONSISTENT WITH ARTICLES 4 AND 6 OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT
ON TRADE IN TEXTILES AND HAITI COULD GET BETTER TERMS. FOURCAND
COMMENTED THAT HE, TOO, WAS A LAWYER AND HAD INTENSIVELY STUDIED
THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT IN HOPES OF RECEIVING BEST POSSIBLE
TERMS FROM US. HE HAD CONCLUDED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE DRAFT
WAS CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND THAT NO
LOOPHOLES EXISTED FOR OBTAINING BETTER TERMS THAN THOSE NEGOTIATED
WITH JURICH.

5. COMMENT: THIS ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY WILL BE A MOST USEFUL
PIECE OF EVIDENCE TO COUNTER THE RECURRENT DOUBTS ABOUT US
INTENTIONS THAT SEEM TO SEIZE PALACE, AND AS IS OFTEN THE CASE
HERE MAY HAVE EXERTED FAVORABLE IMPACT ON UNRELATED ISSUES OF
INTEREST TO USG, SPECIFICALLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH
KENNECOTT, WHICH SOME IN GOH HAD URGED BE DEFERRED INDEFINITELY.
USG ABILITY TO BE FORTHCOMING ON THE EMOTIONAL TEXTILE ISSUE
WILL IN OUR VIEW PAY LONG-TERM DIVIDENDS HERE.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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